



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DR. WILLIAM E. MORITZ
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: January 19, 2016
RESUBMITTED: February 16, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Launch of Motorized Watercraft Prohibited from State Lands onto Ely Lake, Little Tom Lake and Crooked Lake; Clyde Township, Allegan County
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 1 of 2016

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director to issue orders to implement land use rules.

Discussion and Background

The Land Use Orders of the Director prohibit several activities on all managed state game areas and wildlife areas. The Director may order additional prohibited conduct on state game areas or wildlife areas in order to protect and preserve public lands and other property from depredation, damage, or destruction or wrongful or improper use or occupancy.

The Department is recommending that no watercraft with motors be launched from state lands onto Ely Lake, Little Tom Lake, and Crooked Lake within Clyde Township, Allegan County within the Allegan State Game Area.

Ely Lake has consistent areas all year long that are deep enough to use a conventional motor, but the lake is limited in size. However, Ely Lake has been subject to an Allegan County Special Local Watercraft Control prohibiting the use of any motorboat for about seven decades. By updating Department rules, there will be consistency in regulations for all lakes in the area.


Crooked Lake is a long waterbody with many shallow bay areas. The Crooked Lake Marsh is the largest of Michigan's coastal plain marshes, and at one time, was part of a larger lake that included Little Tom Lake. Crooked Lake Marsh is now a soft-water seepage lake with no inlet or outlet, and its water level fluctuates greatly, not only throughout the season but also from year to year. In addition, Crooked Lake Marsh is legally dedicated in the Nature Conservancy Natural Areas Registry and is home to a number of threatened and endangered plants and invertebrates. Although the lake is shallow, newly available equipment, known as "mud motors", designed specifically to propel through shallow and muddy areas, are being used and causing extensive damage.

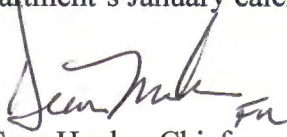
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Little Tom Lake is very small, but launching a watercraft with a motor is possible in some of the consistently deeper areas. However, the Department recommends including the launch restriction for Little Tom Lake in order to ensure that the rules for all these water bodies in the area are consistent and to protect the vegetation and invertebrate species.

Recommendation:

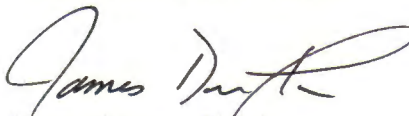
This order was submitted for information on February 11, 2016, at the Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's January calendar and may be eligible for approval on March 10, 2016.



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division


Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division


Deb Begalle, Acting Chief
Forest Resources Division


Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division


James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division


Bill O'Neill
Natural Resources Deputy

LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 1 of 2016

By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.504, and in accordance with R 299.921 to R 299.933, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders the following:

3.3 Allegan state game area, Allegan county, prohibited conduct.

Order 3.3 A person shall not do any of the following on the Allegan SGA, Allegan county:

- (1) Use skis from November 1 through the first Sunday following January 1.
- (2) Consume or possess an alcoholic beverage of any kind within the campgrounds or picnic areas.
- (3) Camp in any of the following areas:
 - (a) Horseman's camp.
 - (b) Lake view.
 - (c) Old forest nursery.
 - (d) Swan creek.
- (4) Launch a watercraft with a motor from state-owned lands surrounding:
 - (a) Crooked Lake.
 - (b) Ely Lake.
 - (c) Little Tom Lake.

This amended order shall be posted on or after the 11th day of March, 2016.

Issued on this 10th day of March, 2016.

William E. Moritz, Ph.D.
Director